THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Other than captive power plants for consumption by operational units, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) does not have power plants in Andhra Pradesh or anywhere else in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Shortage of kerosene

2335. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI BALVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURALGAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of kerosene oil in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the supply of kerosene in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) PDS kerosene is an allocated product and has been allocated to the States/UTs on a historical basis. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the year 2005-06, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year.

Effective 2nd October, 2005, Government launched the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana as a pilot project in 413 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory for a period of six months with a view to strengthening and streamlining the infrastructure for kerosene distribution and involving the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats and State Panchayati Raj Institutions in the supervision of PDS kerosene distribution, so as to ensure that entitled beneficiaries actually receive their entitlement and diversion to adulteration and black-marketing is capped, reversed and eventually eliminated.